

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (new) A method for the detection of parasites of the Schistosoma genus in a biological sample wherein a specific region of the DNA of the Schistosoma genus contains SEQ ID NO:1, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) extracting Schistosoma sp. DNA from a biological sample;

(b) amplifying by PCR of a specific region of said Schistosoma sp. DNA obtained in step (a) with oligonucleotide primers consisting of the sequences of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3, to obtain amplified products; and,

(c) separating the amplified products obtained in step (b) by electrophoresis to obtain separated products, and visualizing said separated products to detect the presence of any parasites of the Schistosoma genus in the biological sample.

10. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the amplified products of step (b) are separated by electrophoresis in polyacrylamide gel and visualized by colouring with silver salts.

11. (new) An oligonucleotide primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

12. (new) A kit to detect the presence of an organism of the genus *Schistosoma* in a biological sample, said kit comprising an oligonucleotide primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

13. (new) The kit according to claim 12, further including a protocol and instruction manual for the user.